

Application No. 10/032,067  
Reply to Office Action of February 3, 2003

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Wright for the courtesy of an interview on May 8, 2003, at which time amended claims 1-17 and new claims were discussed, as was the applied prior art reference to Moroto et al. At that time, applicants explained that Moroto et al lacked a power synthesizing mechanism for synthesizing power outputted from an electric motor and an engine. Instead, the power from the engine 1 and that from the motor 10 are applied alternatively (column 5, line 66 through column 6, line 57), and so there is no need for a power synthesizing mechanism. It was therefore agreed that the claims, as there discussed, define over Moroto et al.

As was further discussed during the telephone interview on July 1, 2003, the claims as discussed during the interview of May 8, 2003 have been modified in the present response in order to eliminate certain unnecessary limitations, for clarity and for consistency with the disclosure, but not in a manner believed to affect the arguments presented in the interview of May 8, 2003 since they recite a power synthesizing mechanism for synthesizing outputted powers, which is not present in the reference. The agreement reached on May 8, 2003 is therefore believed to apply equally to the claims as now presented.

Specifically, the independent Claim 1 has been amended to recite a power transmission system comprising an engine, an electric motor, a power synthesizing mechanism for synthesizing powers outputted from the engine and the electric motor, a power generator connected to the synthesizing mechanism, and a speed change mechanism for changing the rotating speed of said electric motor to transmit a torque of the electric motor to said power



Application No. 10/032,067

Reply to Office Action of February 3, 2003

synthesizing mechanism. In Moroto et al the engine 1 and motor 10 are directly connected, and power from the engine 1 and that from the motor 10 are applied alternatively (column 5, line 66 through column 6, line 57), and so there is no need for a power synthesizing mechanism. Since this element is not present in the prior art, Claim 1 and its dependent claims are patentable.

New Claims 21-41 have been introduced. Of these, Claim 21 corresponds to Claim 7 rewritten in independent form, Claim 22 corresponds to Claim 6 rewritten in independent form, Claim 23 corresponds to original Claim 9, Claim 24 corresponds to original Claim 10 except for its dependency, Claim 25 corresponds to original Claim 11 except for its dependency, Claim 26 corresponds to original Claim 12 except for its dependency, Claim 27 corresponds to original Claim 13 except for its dependency, Claim 28 corresponds to original Claim 14 except for its dependency, Claim 29 corresponds to original Claim 15 except for its dependency, Claim 30 corresponds to original Claim 16 except for its dependency and Claim 31 corresponds to original claim 17 except for its dependency. Claims 32 and 33 respectively comprise original Claims 19 and 20 rewritten in independent form.

New Claim 34 and its dependent claims also recite a power transmission system which includes a power synthesizing mechanism for synthesizing powers outputted from the electric motor and the engine. Accordingly, these claims define over Moroto et al for the same reasons as Claim 1.

Applicants are concurrently filing an Information Disclosure Statement citing U.S. patent 3,623,568 (Mori). This reference was also discussed during the telephone interview on July 1, 2003, and Claim 1 includes limitations suggested by the examiner in light of this reference. Specifically, Claim 1 recites that the power generator has *an output portion*



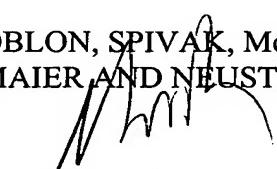
Application No. 10/032,067  
Reply to Office Action of February 3, 2003

connected to *an input portion* of the synthesizing mechanism.

Applicants therefore believe that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicit an early Notice of Allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

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